

# **Analysis and Modeling of Surfzone Turbulence and Bubbles**

Dr. Falk Feddersen  
Scripps Institutions of Oceanography  
IOD/SIO/UCSD 0209, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla CA 92093-0209  
858.534.4345, 858.534.0300 (FAX), [falk@coast.ucsd.edu](mailto:falk@coast.ucsd.edu)  
<http://iod.ucsd.edu/~falk>

Grant Number: N00014-04-1-0218

## **LONG-TERM GOALS**

Turbulence in the surfzone and nearshore mixes momentum vertically, transmits stress to the sea bed, influences the structure of the cross- and alongshore currents, and controls the suspension of sediment from the sea bed. In many coastal and shelf environments, the sea-bed is the primary source of turbulence due to bottom induced shear. In the surfzone, the breaking-wave generated turbulence likely dominates over bottom generated turbulence. However, the dynamics of turbulence in the nearshore and surfzone under breaking waves is poorly understood.

Realistic three-dimensional simulations of surfzone hydrodynamics and sediment transport, which are currently being attempted, for example, in the recent nearshore NOPP project, will not be possible without at least a rudimentary understanding of breaking-induced turbulence dynamics. Long term goals include addressing some of the unresolved science issues through analysis and modeling of existing field measurements to quantify turbulence dynamics. This will significantly improve both circulation and sediment transport modeling.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Understanding and accurately modeling the three dimensional nearshore circulation and sediment transport are goals of the ONR Coastal Geosciences Program. The vertical structure of the circulation and sediment suspension are a strong functions of nearshore turbulence. Increased understanding of turbulence in this region and the development of turbulence models for use in circulation and sediment transport models will greatly aid in achieving ONR Coastal Geosciences program goals.

Unresolved science issues are being addressed by further analysis and modeling of existing nearshore turbulence observations. The specific objectives over the past year include:

- Develop and test new methodologies for estimating turbulent dissipation and Reynolds stresses in wave dominated environments (completed).
- Develop and test coupled turbulence and single gas component bubble model (completed)
- Test a local balance for the turbulent kinetic energy at multiple vertical locations (completed)
- Test nearshore depth-scalings for turbulent dissipation (ongoing)
- Perform model-data comparisons using the turbulence and bubble model developed by the PI (ongoing).

Attainment of these objectives will contribute significantly to furthering the knowledge of surfzone and nearshore processes, and will move us toward the long term scientific goal of understanding

Report Documentation Page			Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188		
Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.					
1. REPORT DATE <b>30 SEP 2005</b>		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED <b>00-00-2005 to 00-00-2005</b>	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE <b>Analysis and Modeling of Surfzone Turbulence and Bubbles</b>			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
			5b. GRANT NUMBER		
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
			5e. TASK NUMBER		
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) <b>Scripps Institutions of Oceanography,IOD/SIO/UCSD 0209, 9500 Gilman Drive,La Jolla,CA,92093</b>			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT <b>Approved for public release; distribution unlimited</b>					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES <b>code 1 only</b>					
14. ABSTRACT <b>Turbulence in the surfzone and nearshore mixes momentum vertically, transmits stress to the sea bed, influences the structure of the cross-and alongshore currents, and controls the suspension of sediment from the sea bed. In many coastal and shelf environments, the sea-bed is the primary source of turbulence due to bottom induced shear. In the surfzone, the breaking-wave generated turbulence likely dominates over bottom generated turbulence. However, the dynamics of turbulence in the nearshore and surfzone under breaking waves is poorly understood.</b>					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT <b>Same as Report (SAR)</b>	18. NUMBER OF PAGES <b>8</b>	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT <b>unclassified</b>	b. ABSTRACT <b>unclassified</b>	c. THIS PAGE <b>unclassified</b>			

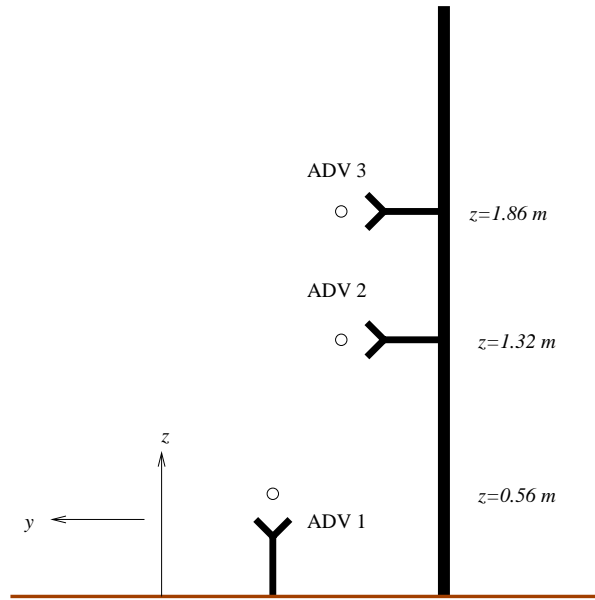


Figure 1: Schematic of the ADV locations. The view is toward offshore ( $+x$ ), and the vertical  $z$  and alongshore  $y$  coordinates are indicated. ADV 1 is upward looking. The vertical location of the ADV sensing volumes (indicated by the small circle) are given.

nearshore circulation and sediment transport processes. These scientific goals are of societal significance because of the economic and recreational importance of the nation's beaches.

## APPROACH

The model development (programming) and testing work is being done by the PI (Feddersen), as well as the model simulations and model-data comparisons. The basis of the coupled turbulence-bubble model is a standard  $k-\epsilon$  model (Rodi, 1987) augmented with a wave-breaking turbulence source terms in an approach similar to that used for open-ocean wave breaking (Craig and Banner, 1994), but with the time-dependence of breaking retained. The model is described in detail in Feddersen and Trowbridge (2005).

The ongoing field data analysis is being done by the PI in collaboration with John Trowbridge of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. The field campaign consisted of a main instrumented frame was deployed for 2 weeks at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Research Facility (FRF) at Duck N.C. in approximately 3.2 m mean water depth with the variable tides and wave heights (Fig. 1). At this depth, there was white-capping wave breaking but no depth-limited wave breaking. The main frame was instrumented with a vertical array spanning most of the water column of 3 ADV (Acoustic Doppler Velocimeter) and 4 conductivity cells to measure velocity and void fraction respectively. The void fraction measurements were meant to study bubble dynamics, however the sensors had significant noise problems and did not return any useful data. These measurements of the vertical structure of turbulence in the nearshore are unique and had not before been attempted in the nearshore region.

Field data analysis includes estimating the dissipation from the ADVs, using the frozen turbulence hypothesis and the inertial-dissipation technique (*Trowbridge and Elgar, 2001*). The vertically separated ADVs were used to infer the turbulent momentum fluxes, *i.e.*, (*e.g.*, *Feddersen and Williams, 2005*) that are part of the shear production term in the TKE dynamics.

## WORK COMPLETED

- Completed testing of single-gas component bubble model
- Test turbulence component of the model with surfzone field observations. Paper (*Feddersen and Trowbridge, 2005*) in press at *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*
- Developed and tested new methodology for estimation turbulence dissipation in wave dominated environments.
- Developed and tested new methodology for estimating Reynolds stresses in wave dominated environment. Manuscript (*Feddersen and Williams, 2005*) has been submitted to *J. Atmos. Oceanic Tech.*

## RESULTS

### Surfzone Turbulence Modeling

The newly surfzone/nearshore turbulence model is able to reproduce the observed non-dimensionalized turbulence dissipation  $\epsilon/(g^3 h)^{1/2}$  from three different data sets. The nondimensionalization of dissipation collapses the three data sets which come from different beaches and wave conditions (*Feddersen and Trowbridge, 2005*).

### Estimating Reynolds Stresses

An important component of testing a turbulence model is developing field estimates of the Reynolds stress component  $\overline{v'w'}$ . As is discussed in *Trowbridge (1998)*, estimation of  $\overline{v'w'}$  in surface gravity wave dominated environments requires special methods. *Trowbridge (1998)* developed a  $\overline{v'w'}$  estimation method using two current meters and tested it near the bed with two horizontally separated current meters (*Trowbridge, 1998; Trowbridge and Elgar, 2001*). *Shaw and Trowbridge (2001)* developed another method for vertically separated sensors with weak wave conditions near the bed off of the continental shelf. However, for the vertical ADV array (Fig. 1), a new  $\overline{v'w'}$  estimation method had to be developed, because of problems with the other methods. The *Trowbridge (1998)* method has significant wave bias problems (not shown). The *Shaw and Trowbridge (2001)* method  $\overline{v'w'}$  were better but often failed a test of the integrated velocity cospectrum. The new method, described in *Feddersen and Williams (2005)*, is able to reproduce a constant stress layer (*i.e.*, vertically uniform  $\overline{v'w'}$ ) in the wind-driven nearshore environment (Fig. 2).

### Vertical Structure of Turbulent Dissipation in the Nearshore

The dissipation of turbulent kinetic energy ( $\epsilon$ ) is estimated with a new method (*Feddersen, 2005*) at each of the ADVs (Fig. 1). The mean plus the first EOF captures the majority (91%) of the  $\epsilon$  variability. The observed  $\epsilon$  has a maximum at the uppermost ADV, a minimum at the middle ADV,

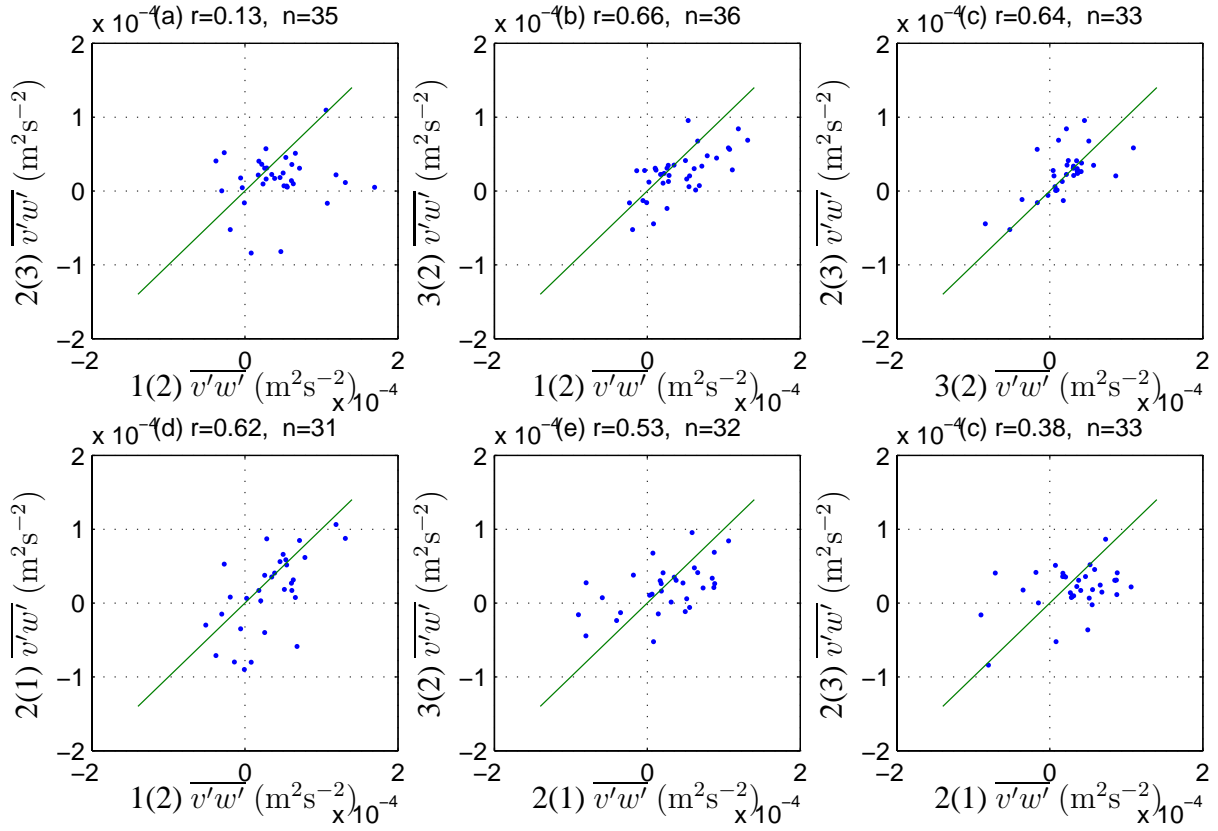


Figure 2: Inter-sensor comparison of *Feddersen and Williams* (2005) estimated  $\overline{v'w'}$  for all combinations of vertical location. The correlations and number of good colocated estimates are given.

and another maximum but less than ADV 3, at the bottom (Fig. 3). This is consistent with surface generated turbulence due to wind-induced wave-whitecapping influencing ADV 3 and near-bed generated turbulence influencing ADV 1 (see for example *Feddersen and Trowbridge*, 2005).

Further demonstrating that the increased surface  $\epsilon$  is not due to surfzone depth-limited wave breaking, the  $\epsilon$  observations are scaled with a surfzone dissipation scaling (*Feddersen and Trowbridge*, 2005) giving the non-dimensional  $\epsilon/(g^3 h)^{1/2}$ . At the same relative locations in the water column (Fig. 4), these values were much less than other scaled surfzone  $\epsilon/(g^3 h)^{1/2}$  (*George et al.*, 1994; *Bryan et al.*, 2003). Another process is giving the increased near surface  $\epsilon$ .

Wind-induced wave whitecapping is likely that process. In a deep lake, *Terray et al.* (1996) found increased  $\epsilon$  near the surface that scaled as

$$\epsilon H_{\text{sig}}/(\alpha u_*^3) = 0.3(z'/H_{\text{sig}})^{-2} \quad (1)$$

where  $z'$  is the distance from the surface,  $u_*$  is the friction velocity and  $\alpha$  is a constant. This implies that white-capping was inputting turbulence at the surface which diffuses downward resulting in enhanced  $\epsilon$  relative to law of the wall scaling. The top two ADVs follow this deep-water scaling (Fig. 5a,b). This demonstrates that the processes just offshore of the surfzone that result in increased near surface dissipation are the same wind-induced white-capping wave breaking as in

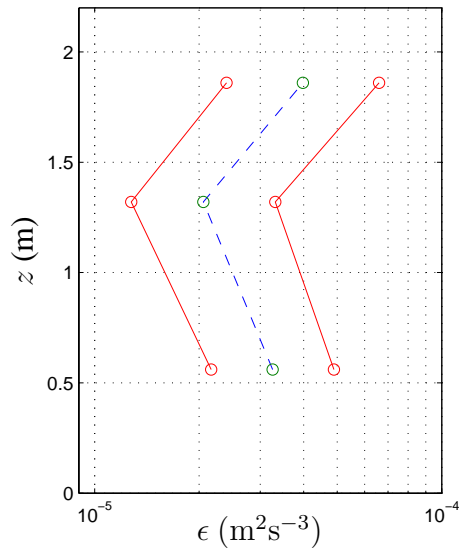


Figure 3: Vertical structure of the log-eof  $\epsilon$ : mean (dashed) and mean  $\pm$  first EOF (solid).

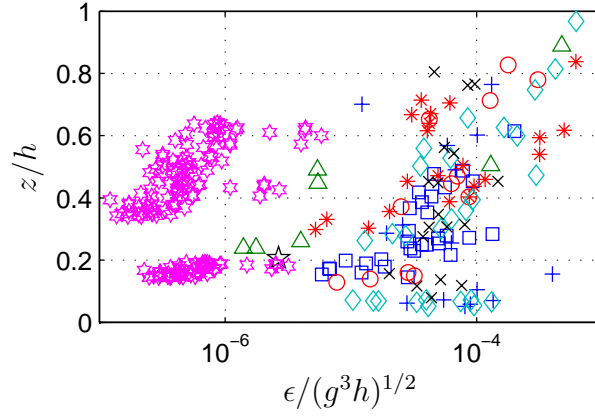


Figure 4: Surfzone scaled dissipation  $\epsilon/(g^3h)^{1/2}$  as a function of normalized depth  $z/h$ . The magenta stars represent the observations reported here. The black star is the strongest dissipation observation of *Trowbridge and Elgar* (2001). The remaining symbols are the surfzone observations of *George et al.* (1994) and *Bryan et al.* (2003).

the deep water (*e.g.*, *Anis and Moum*, 1995; *Terray et al.*, 1996; *Drennan et al.*, 1996). However the near bed ADV does not follow this scaling and is likely influenced by bottom boundary layer processes.

## IMPACT/APPLICATIONS

Potential impacts include vastly improved nearshore circulation and sediment transport modeling through the increased understanding of nearshore turbulence.

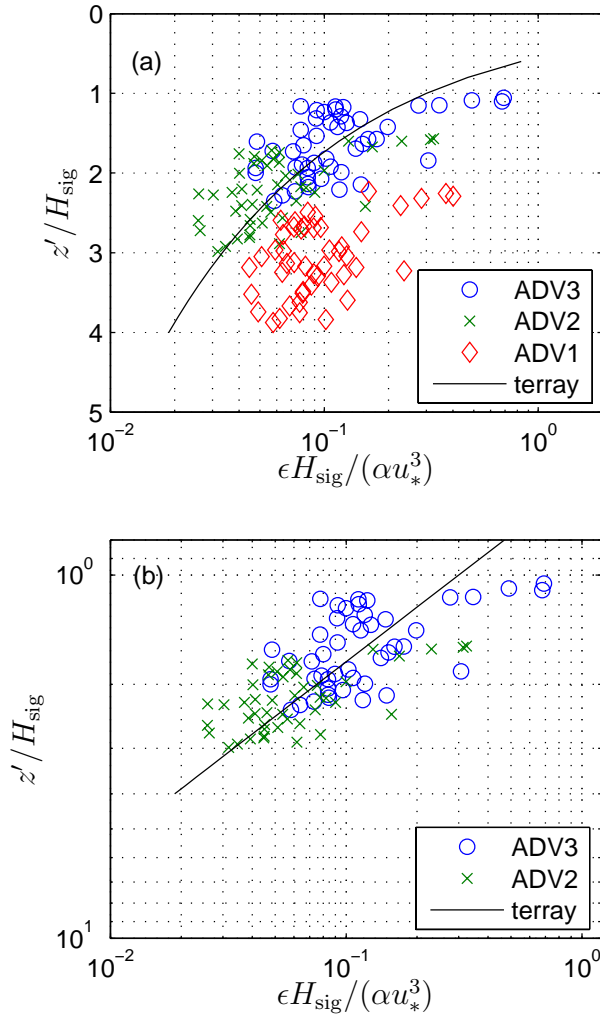


Figure 5: (a) Wave-scaled  $\epsilon H_{\text{sig}}/(\alpha u_*^3)$  versus wave-normalized depth  $z'/H_{\text{sig}}$ . (b) log-log plot of the same. The black curve in (a,b) is the *Terray et al.* (1996) scaling of  $\epsilon H_{\text{sig}}/(\alpha u_*^3) = 0.3(z/H_{\text{sig}})^{-2}$ .

## RELATED PROJECTS

There are no active related projects.

## REFERENCES

- Anis, A., and J. N. Moum, 1995: Surface wave-turbulence interactions: Scaling  $\epsilon(z)$  near the sea surface, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, **25**, 2025–2045.
- Bryan K. R., K. P. Black, and R. M. Gorman, Spectral estimates of dissipation rate within and near the surf zone, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, **33**, 979–993, 2003.

- Craig, P. D., and M. L. Banner, Modeling wave-enhanced turbulence in the ocean surface layer, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 24, 2546–2559, 1999.
- Drennan, W. M., M. A. Donelan, E. A. Terray, and K. B. Katsaros, Oceanic turbulence dissipation measurements in SWADE, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 26, 808–815, 1996.
- Feddersen F., The vertical structure of dissipation in the nearshore, in preparation, 2005.
- Feddersen, F. and J. H. Trowbridge, The effect of wave-breaking on surfzone turbulence and along-shore currents: A Modeling Study, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, in press, 2005.
- Feddersen F., and A. J. Williams 3d, Direct estimation of the Reynolds stress vertical structure in the nearshore, submitted to *J. Atmos. Oceanic Tech.*, May 2005.
- George, R., R. E. Flick, and R. T. Guza, Observations of turbulence in the surf zone, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 99, 801–810, 1994.
- Rodi, W., Examples of calculation methods for flow and mixing in stratified fluid, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 92, 5305–5328, 1987.
- Shaw, W. J., and J. H. Trowbridge, The measurement of near-bottom turbulent fluxes in the presence of energetic wave motions, *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, 18, 1540–1557, 2001.
- Terray, E. A., M. A. Donelan, Y. C. Agrawal, W. M. Drennan, K. K. Kahma, A. J. Williams, and P. Hwang, Estimates of kinetic energy dissipation under breaking waves, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 26, 792–807, 1996.
- Trowbridge, J. H., On a technique for measurement of turbulent Reynolds stress in the presence of surface waves, *J. Atmos. Oceanic Technol.*, 15, 290–298, 1998.
- Trowbridge, J. H., and S. Elgar, Turbulence measurements in the surfzone, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, 31, 2403–2417, 2001.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Feddersen, F. and J. H. Trowbridge, The effect of wave-breaking on surfzone turbulence and alongshore currents: A Modeling Study, *J. Phys. Oceanogr.*, in press, 2005.
- Feddersen F. and A. J. Williams 3d, Direct Estimation of the Reynolds Stress Vertical Structure in the Nearshore, submitted to *J. Atmos. Oceanic Tech.*, May 2005.
- Feddersen F., Vertical Structure of Dissipation in the Nearshore, in preparation, 2005.